

DETAILED ACTION

Per Applicant's Request for Continued Examination

Claims 1, 5-14 and 16-17 have been amended.

Claims 15 and 18 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-14 and 16-17 are pending.

Per Examiner's Amendment

Claims 13-14 and 17 are cancelled.

Claims 1-12 and 16 are allowed.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

I. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/9/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

II. Applicant's arguments (see Remarks pages 11-14) filed 9/9/2008, with respect to claims 1 and 16, have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore the 35 USC 103(a) rejections of these claims (and their dependants) have been withdrawn.

Examiner's Amendment

III. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Atty. Benjamin Esplin on September 17, 2008.

IV. Please make the following changes to Claims 13-14 and 17:

Claim 13: Cancelled

Claim 14: Cancelled

Claim 17: Cancelled

Reasons for Allowance

V. This communication warrants no Examiner's reason for allowance, as Applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of Applicant's comments in the Remarks filed on 9/9/2008 with respect to the claimed limitations sufficiently present the reasons the allowed claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement of an Examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

VI. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Kristie Shingles whose telephone number is 571-272-3888. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kristie D. Shingles
Examiner
Art Unit 2141

/KDS/

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2144